



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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July 21, 2005

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: PD-3

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**PROPOSED QUARTZ HILL STORM DRAIN
PROPOSED DRAINAGE BENEFIT ASSESSMENT AREA NO. 29
PREPARATION OF ENGINEER'S REPORT
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the preparation of an engineer's report for a proposed, new Drainage Benefit Assessment Area No. 29 is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
2. Direct the Department of Public Works to prepare an engineer's report for a proposed, new Drainage Benefit Assessment Area No. 29 in accordance with the requirements of the Benefit Assessment Act of 1982 and Article 13D of the California Constitution.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Public Works is proposing to construct a storm drain and appurtenant structures in the unincorporated County area of Quartz Hill.

This is a request for authorization from your Board to proceed with the engineering work necessary to comply with the provisions of the Benefit Assessment Act of 1982 and Article 13D of the California Constitution in connection with the possible formation of a Drainage Benefit Assessment Area for the imposition of special benefit property assessments for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the drainage improvements.

Historically, the operation and maintenance costs for drainage improvements located in this area of the County have been financed through the formation of Drainage Benefit Assessment Areas, since it is located outside the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence since the proposed drainage facilities provide for the safety and security of people and property, which improves the quality of life in the County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total cost of the recommended activities is \$500,000. Funding for the work is included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2005-06 Special Road District 5 Fund Budget. The County's General Fund will not be impacted.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Quartz Hill area of the unincorporated County territory experiences severe flooding during heavy rainstorms, which occurred over this past storm season. As a result of information obtained during several meetings between representatives of Public Works and members of this community discussing the flooding problems and potential solutions, Public Works is proposing to construct a storm drain in downtown Quartz Hill.

The Quartz Hill area is located outside of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. Therefore, Public Works is proposing that the storm drain be financed through the formation of a local Drainage Benefit Assessment Area.

Benefit Assessment Act of 1982 (Government Code Section 54703 et seq) authorizes the County to impose a benefit assessment on parcels within the unincorporated areas of the County to finance the costs associated with providing drainage and flood control services to these areas.

Government Code Section 54716 provides that, for the first fiscal year in which a benefit assessment is proposed to be imposed by a local agency, the legislative body of the local agency shall cause a written report pertaining to the proposed assessment to be prepared and filed with the clerk of the local agency.

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Additionally, Article 13D of the California Constitution requires that all proposed assessments be supported by a detailed engineer's report prepared by a registered professional engineer certified by the State of California.

The present action by your Board will not form nor place any obligation on your Board to form the district. When completed, the engineer's report will be presented to your Board in connection with recommendation for your Board's further consideration of whether or not to form the district and impose the assessment.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

This action consists of data collection and research for a study leading to an action, which your Board has not yet approved, adopted, or funded and is therefore exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15306 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (the State CEQA Guidelines).

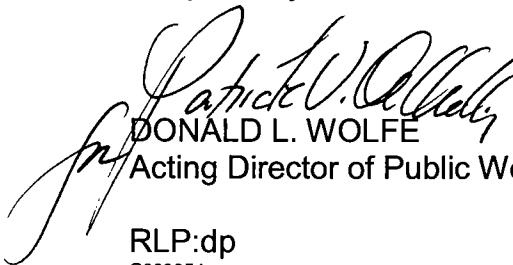
IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no impact on current services or projects.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval, please return one adopted copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,


DONALD L. WOLFE
Acting Director of Public Works

RLP:dp

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel